

1-90: 1D10-17 Superintendent of Nurses

1 School of Nursing

1D10-17

Postings List

Biographical sketches

Application and reference to School (class of 1913)

Obituary
MGA Quarterly Record June 1923

Resumé 1919 (War Department)

1925 (Letter from Isabel M. Stewart)

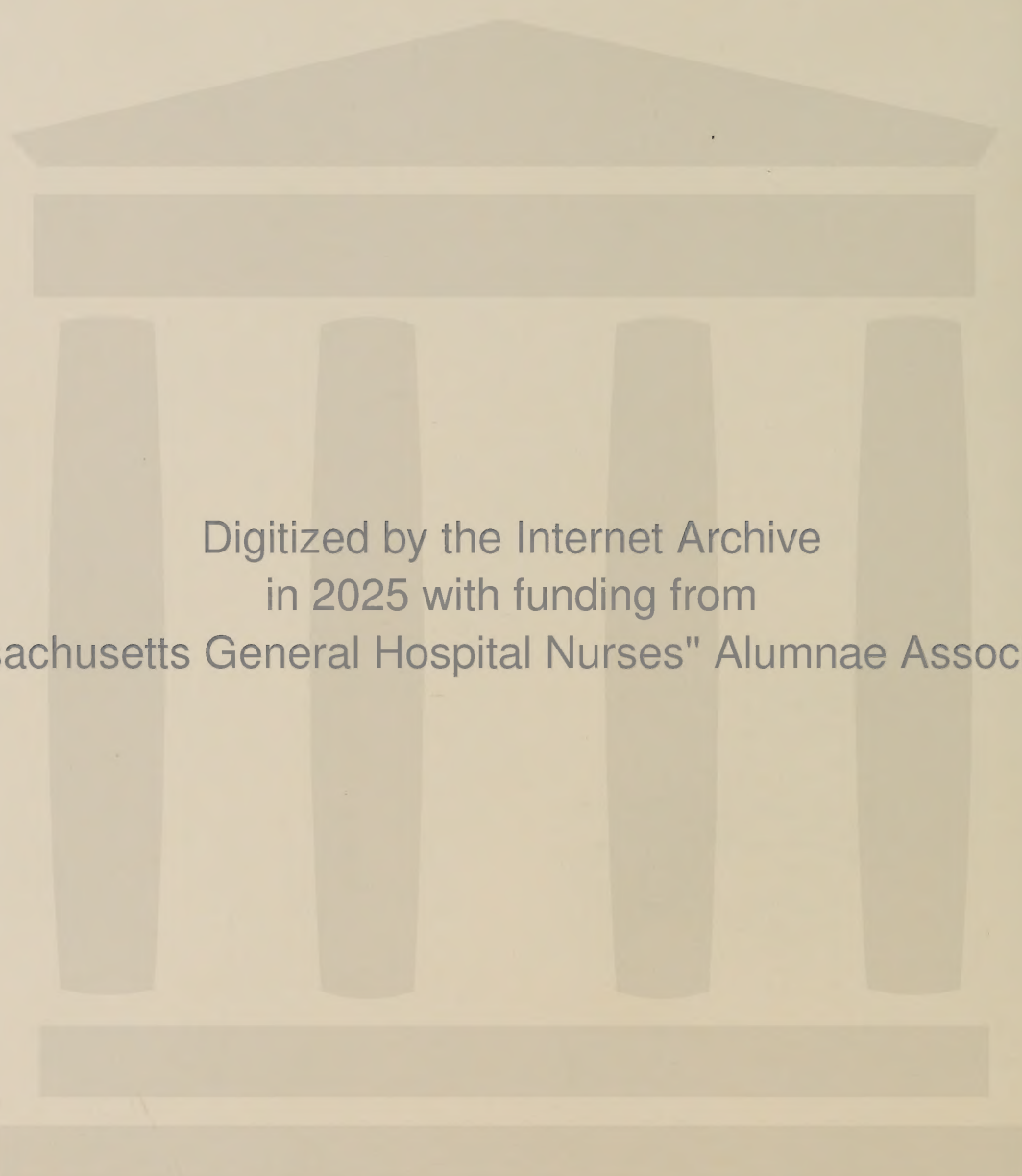
Contributions of SEP to MGA School and Nursing Service

Invitation to SEP, 50th Anniversary of Founding of Washington School (1860)

Application to School removed to nursing dept

1D10 then balance 1910-1920

1D10-17 Biographical Data



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
Massachusetts General Hospital Nurses' Alumnae Association

Sara E. Parsons (Class of 1893)

First nurse to go from the Boston Training School to McLean Hospital since affiliation was started.

Organized School of Butler Hospital, Providence, R.I., 1897-1898.

Organized School of Sheppard-Pratt Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, 1906-1908.

Superintendent of Nurses, Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses, 1910-1920.

First President of Central Directory, Boston, 1912.

1914 Suggested raising of an endowment fund to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the school in 1923.

1917 Chief Nurse, Base Hospital #6, sailed to France.

1919 (Oct.) Resumed duties as Superintendent of Nurses, Massachusetts General Hospital to 1920.

1921 Wrote "History of Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses".

Secretary, National League of Nursing Education, 1914-1915

President, National League of Nursing Education, 1917.

POSITION(S) HELD AT M.G.H.

Listed in chronological order

PARSONS, Sara E.

School of Nursing, graduate of M.G.H. 1893

From: Her file

From McLean Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1894

Date: 1893

1894

Degrees - One year at Teachers College, N.Y. rec. special certificate
of the Dept. of Hospital Economics.

Took Administration Course at MGH

1909

Experience before M.G.H. Position

Spent several years organizing schools for nurses in
hospitals for the insane

Opened Griffin Hospital in Derby, Conn.

Speeches made

Paper written - "Relation of Nursing Schools to Hospitals" by Sara E. Parsons
(Reprint from The Modern Hospital, 8/1921)

From sketch in file

Books Published - History of the MGH Training School for Nurses.

1922

Pamphlet - "The Grading of Nurses" - Read before N.Y. Academy of
Medicine, 12/10/1912

Nursing Problems and Obligations

Organizations

Membership in

Offices held - President of the Mass. State Nurses Assoc.; V.P. sec. and president
of the N.L. of N. Education

Committees served on

Positions held at M.G.H.

Supt. of the school for nurses, MGH, in 1910

1910

Chief Nurse of Base Hospital 6 from June 1917 to 1919

Resigned her position at MGH Oct. 1, 1920, and went to survey the nursing
schools in Missouri and Oklahoma

Boston May 10, 1891
Dear Dr. Knapp —

I beg to introduce the
learned Miss Faneuse when
wishes to enter the farming
school for women —

Yours
||

My sister Mrs Foster who
will call on you with
Miss P — knows her
well. And speaking
her in the highest terms
is now what I have
learned I have no
doubt. Miss Faneuse

If she is admitted to
the school - will reflect
credit on the Hospital -

Please assist her as

much as you can &
greatly oblige

Yours truly
Thomas E. Provost

WM. B. CUSHMAN, M. D.
Physician and Surgeon,
Residence, Main Street,
OXFORD, MASS.

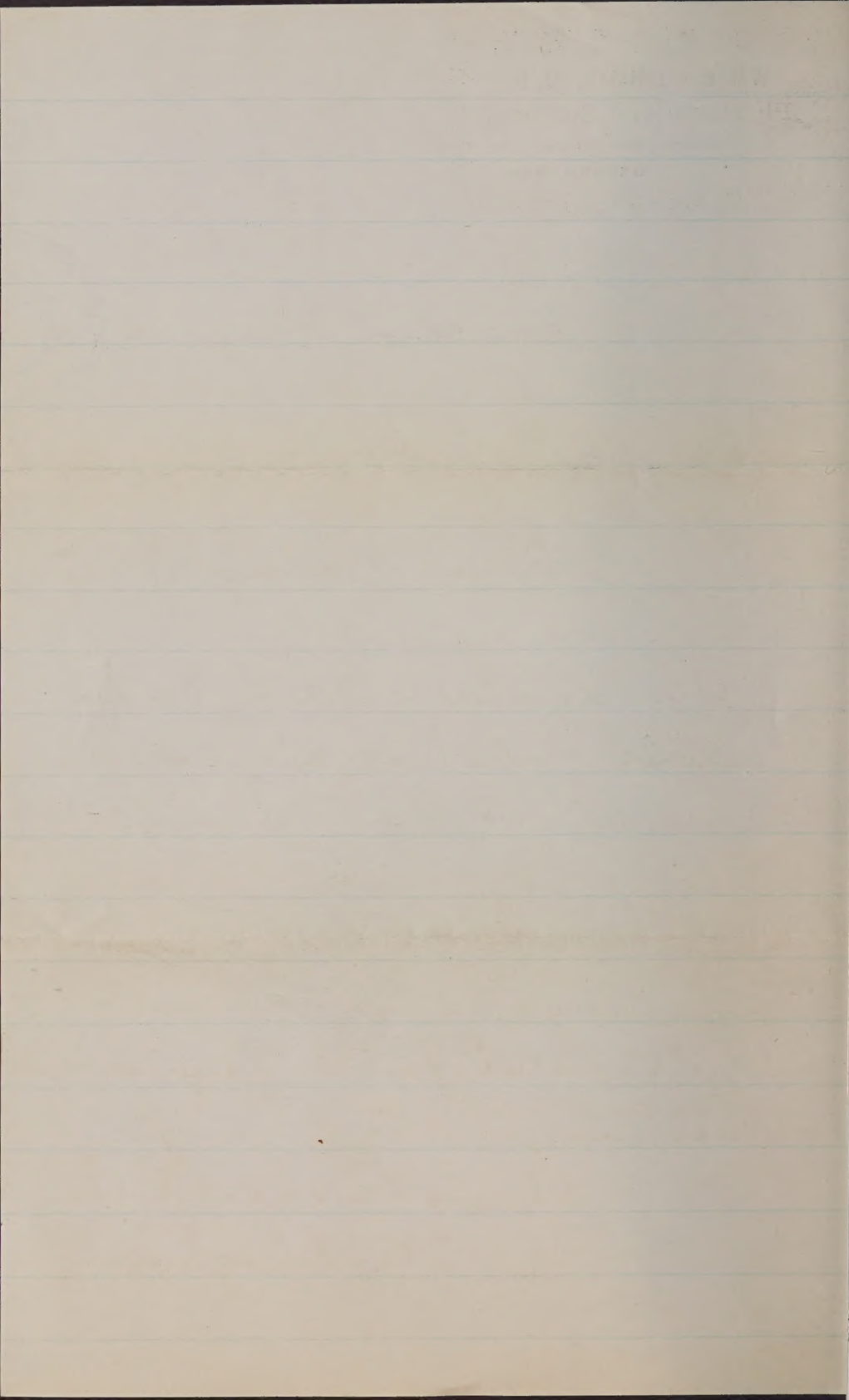
Oxford, Mass May 16 1891

Miss M. B. Brown;

Dear Madam;

In regard to Miss Sarah
Parsons who has applied for
admission to the Training School
under your charge, I am
happy to state, that she is of
perfect health and is in every
respect fitted for the profession
of nurse -

Yours Respectfully
W. B. Cushman M.D.



Boston City Hospital.

Boston, May 20th 1891.

Miss Brown,

Dear Madam

Miss Sarah Elizabeth Parsons entered this school as probationer July 13, 1884, and was called home by the illness of her mother Oct. 15, 1884. Her mother died in a few days, and Miss Parsons remained to care for her step-~~brothers and~~ sisters.

She was very young while here, and the record says "was easily led into mistakes although her intentions were good."

In April, 1888, she expressed a desire to return, but it was not thought best for the connection to be renewed.

I remember her as a bright, impulsive girl, and presume that these years of care and responsi-

[over]

Fidelity have matured her character.

Very truly yours,
Lucy L. Brown,
Supt of Nurses.

Mrs M^r B. Brown,

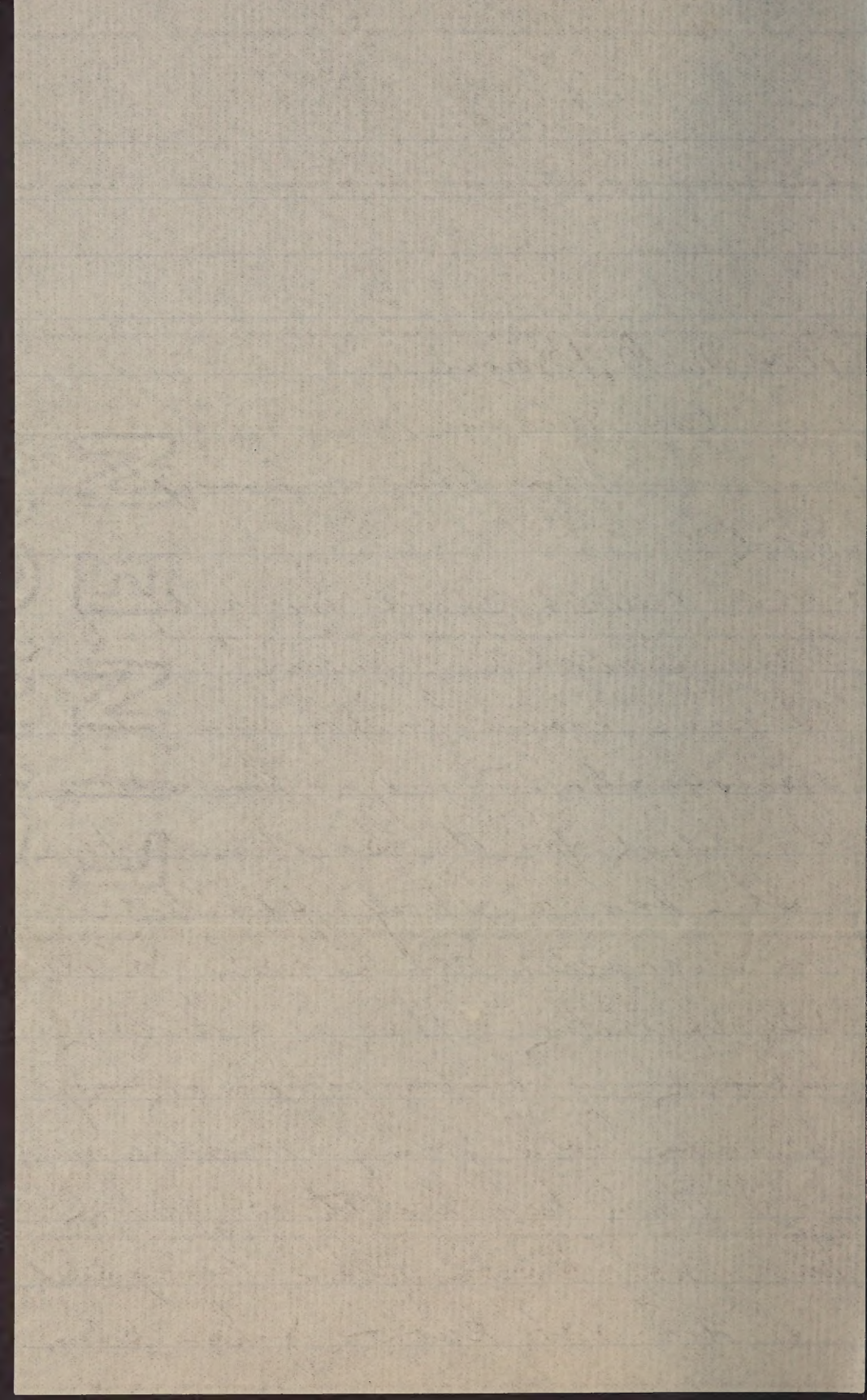
Dear Madame:

Your letter of May 19th
recd.

I cannot speak too highly of
Miss Sarah E. Parsons of Exford,
I have known her for some seven
years + should judge her admirably
fitted for the position of Nurse.

She has a strong, positive
In Character, yet extremely gentle
& sympathetic. She is greatly
beloved by a large circle of
friends, both young & middle aged.

I think her health is good;
have not known of her being sick.
I did not know of her plan

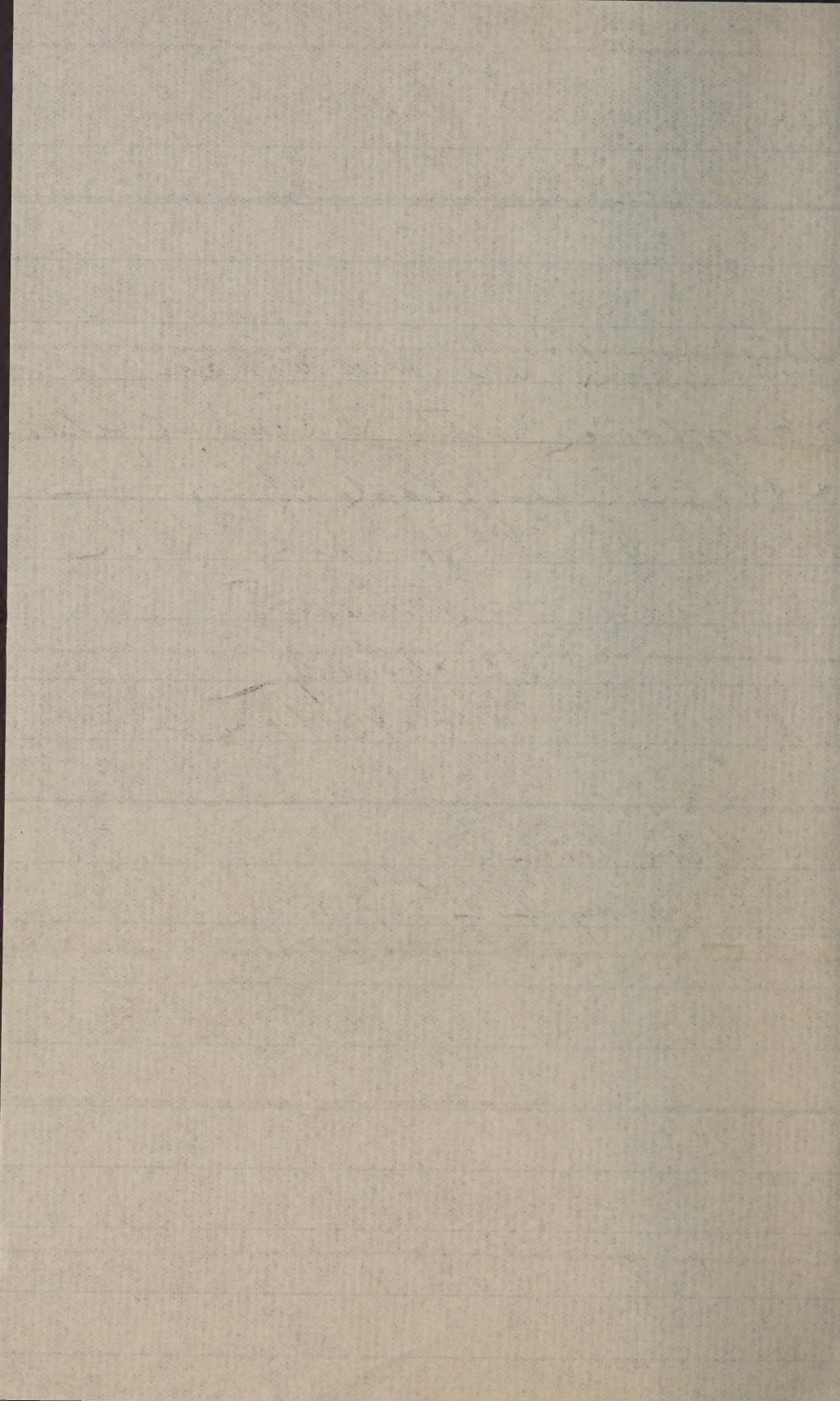


but think she has chosen in
accordance with special fitness,
& shall be glad if you
make room for her, she
is one in a thousand,

Respectfully
Yours Geo B Frost

Littleton Mass

May 22^d '91



BOSTON TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES,

ATTACHED TO THE

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL.

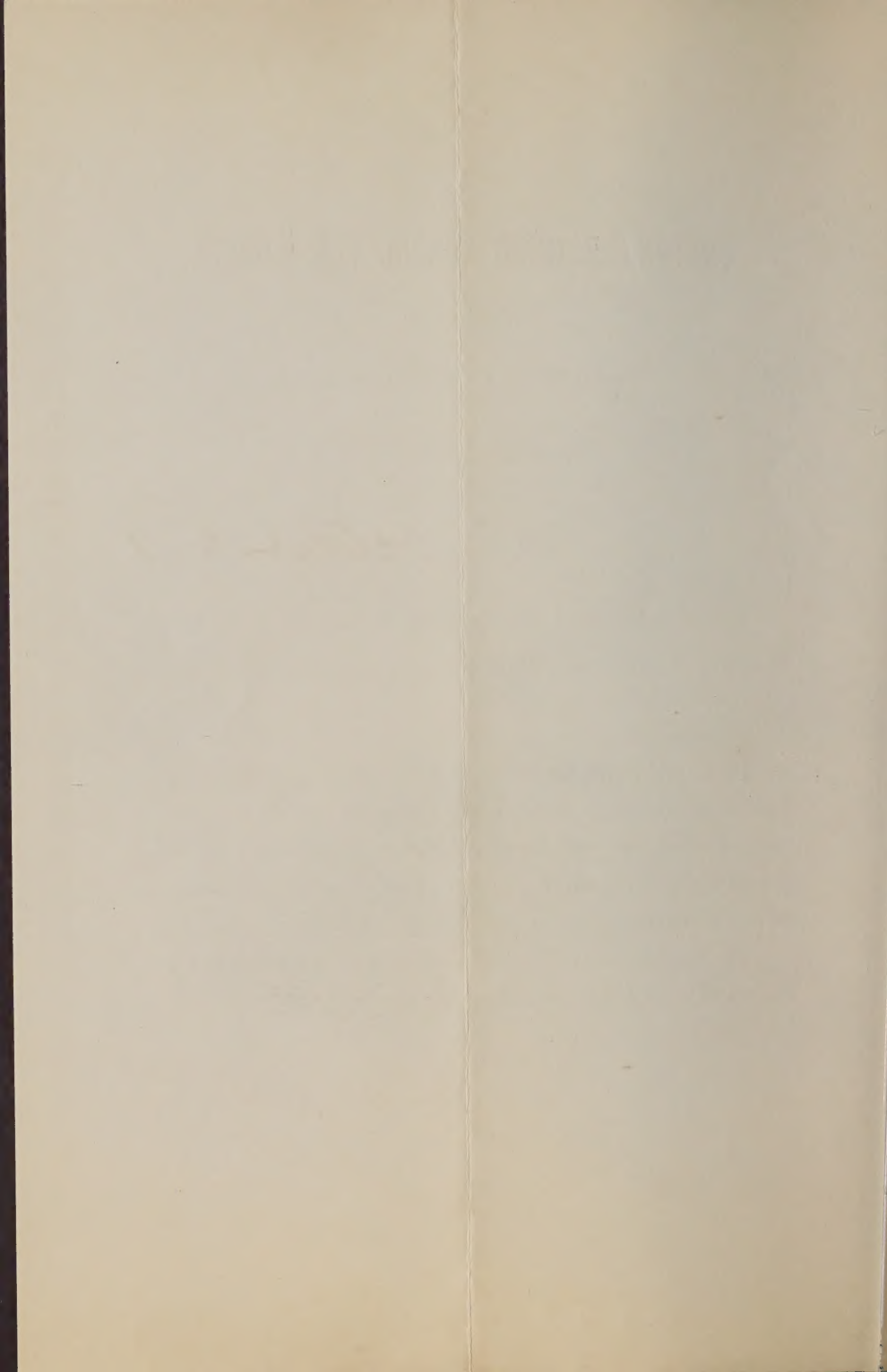
BOSTON, *October 2* 189*1*.

I, the undersigned, hereby agree to remain at the BOSTON TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES two years as a pupil of the School.

[Pupils will receive ten dollars (\$10) a month during the first year, and fourteen dollars (\$14) a month during the second year, for their personal expenses. When the full term of two years is satisfactorily completed, a diploma will be given, certifying to their period of training, their proficiency, and moral character.

The Directors reserve the right to terminate the connection of a pupil with the School for any reason which they may deem sufficient.]

Sarah E. Parsons.



Committee on Public Health Nursing Education

TRAINING SCHOOL SERIES

Schedule III B—Personal History of Members of Faculty

A. 1. Name & Address of School where now employed Massachusetts General Hospital
Training School for Nurses.

2. Name of nurse Sara E. Parsons 3. Age 55 4. M. S. W.

5. Are you registered? Yes 6. If so, give state and year Mass. 1920

7. Name of present position (specify instructor, supervisor, head nurse, assistant, etc.) Superintendent

8. Length of service in present position Since 1910 years 10 months

9. Name duties of present position Superintendent of School

B. 1. Did you hold a paid position *before beginning nurses' training*? No
 (Describe last two positions only)

Nature of Work*

Length of Service

Years Months

*Specify exact position held, e. g. teaching; clerical work; employment in store or factory other than clerical; personal service, such as caring for children; social work, etc.

II. Paid positions held *after completing nurses' training*

1. Have you done private nursing? Yes If so, for how long? three months

2. Positions other than private nursing:

Name of Employer

Place

Nature of Work*

Length of Service

Institution, Organization or Individual

City or Town and State

Years Months

a	McLean Hospital	Waverley Mass.	Supervisor of Nurses.	1	
b	Butler Hospital	Providence R.I.	Supt. of Nurses.	2	
	Northampton State Hospital	Northampton Mass.	Supt. of Nurses.		8
d	Adams Nervine Hospital	Jamaica Plain Mass.	Supt. of Nurses.	3	
e	Sheppard-Pratt Hospital	Towson, Md.	Supt. of Nurses.	3½	
f	Griffin Hospital	Derby, Conn.	Superintendent		6

*Give name of position and kind of work, e. g. headnurse, operating room; supervisor, private wards, etc.

SCHEDULE III B-TEACHING STAFF (CONT.)

C. I. General Education:

	Name	City or Town and State	Year of Graduation	If not graduate No. of yrs. attended
Grammar or Parochial School				
High School	Oxford High School	Oxford, Mass.	Left at end of 1st semester 3rd year.	3½ years
College				
Other Schools not Nurses' Training Schools	School of literature & expression-priv. lessons in languages & music	Worcester Mass.	1888	2 yrs. work in one.

II. Hospital Training (Undergraduate)

- Name & Address of Nurses' Training School Massachusetts General Hospital
Training School for Nurses.
- Year of Graduation 1893
- Length of Course 2 years.
- No. of hospital beds at time you graduated 266
- Were pupils sent out of hospital to do private nursing? No.
- If so, how long were you thus employed? _____
- How long did you spend on special duty with patients to whom a charge was made for special nursing? _____
- Did your training include work with the following:
 - Men Yes
 - Women Yes
 - Children No
 - Sick Infants under 2 years No
 - Medical Cases Yes
 - Surgical Cases Yes
 - Obstetrical Cases No
 - Nervous & Mental Cases Yes
 - Venereal Diseases No
 - Tuberculosis No
 - Other Communicable Diseases (specify which) _____
I specialised in erysipelas and had typhoid fever cases.
- Dietetic Department No
- Other Departments (specify) Out-Patient Female Medical Depart.

III. Post Graduate Courses

School or College	City and State	Length of Time Attended	Year	Subjects Studied	Degree or Diploma
McLean Hospital Training School	Waverley, Mass.	1 year	1895	Mental	diploma
Teachers College	New York	1 year	1905	Anatomy, Phys., Chem., Psychology, Hosp.	cert.
Administration Cr. Mass. Gen. Hospital	Boston, Mass.	4 months	1909	Construction Administration	certificat

Nurses' organizations of which you are a member Amer. Nurses' Asso., National League of Nursing Education, Mass. State Nurses' Asso., Mass. League of Nursing Education

Date January 12, 1920.



SARA E. PARSONS

on 9.4.1893

Sept 1910 - 1920

BORN in Northboro, Massachusetts, in 1864, educated in public and private schools, Miss Parsons began her training in 1884, but after a brief period the death of her mother necessitated resignation. The next seven years were spent in the home at North Oxford, Massachusetts where, as best she could, Miss Parsons took the place of the mother in bringing up two half sisters. Although these years were difficult they were looked upon as valuable years, for it was a period of self discipline.

When Miss Parsons again took up training, she entered the Boston Training School for Nurses, connected with the Massachusetts General Hospital, and graduated in 1893, and from the McLean Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1894.

Miss Parsons then spent several years organizing schools for nurses in hospitals for the insane, these years being interspersed by two sojourns abroad, and a year at Teachers College, New York, from which she received the special certificate of the Department of Hospital Economics. In 1909 Miss Parsons took the Administration Course at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and then opened the Griffin Hospital in Derby, Conn.

In 1910 Miss Parsons returned to the Massachusetts General Hospital to become the superintendent of the school for nurses. Then followed ten especially fruitful years, a time when a great school was ably administered, when valuable contributions were made to nursing literature, and when responsible offices were held in nursing organizations. The most valuable writing of this period was "Nursing Problems and Obligations," a book which has not only helped a large number of nurses, but has interested lay persons. The offices held were those of president of the Massachusetts State Nurses Association, and those of vice-president, secretary, and president of the National League of Nursing Education.

Miss Parsons' progressive theories, which were set forth upon the written page and propounded from the public platform, were put into practice in her school. Every graduate of her school has an inexpressible feeling of gratitude to her for the continued up-building of the school, which resulted from her vision and foresight.

During these years came war service in France, as chief nurse of Base Hospital 6, from June 1917 to March, 1919.

On October 1, 1920, Miss Parsons resigned her position at the Massachusetts General Hospital and went immediately to survey the nursing schools in Missouri and Oklahoma, and to aid with nursing legislation in the former state.

In 1922, Miss Parsons returned to Boston and wrote a History of the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses. This school was one of the first three training schools for nurses in America to be founded on the Nightingale plan. Therefore, this history is of more than local interest, for it chronicles the evolution of American training schools.

S. J.



MARY A. SAMUEL

SARA E. PARSONS



BORN in Northboro, Massachusetts, in 1864, educated in public and private schools, Miss Parsons began her training in 1884, but after a brief period the death of her mother necessitated resignation. The next seven years were spent in the home at North Oxford, Massachusetts where, as best she could, Miss Parsons took the place of the mother in bringing up two half-sisters. Although these years were difficult they were looked upon as valuable years, for it was a period of self discipline.

When Miss Parsons again took up training, she entered the Boston Training School for Nurses, connected with the Massachusetts General Hospital, and graduated in 1893, and from the McLean Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1894.

Miss Parsons then spent several years organizing schools for nurses in hospitals for the insane, these years being interspersed by two sojourns abroad, and a year at Teachers College, New York, from which she received the special certificate of the Department of Hospital Economics. In 1909 Miss Parsons took the Administration Course at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and then opened the Griffin Hospital in Derby, Conn.

In 1910 Miss Parsons returned to the Massachusetts General Hospital to become the superintendent of the school for nurses. Then followed ten especially fruitful years, a time when a great school was ably administered, when valuable contributions were made to nursing literature, and when responsible offices were held in nursing organizations. The most valuable writing of this period was "Nursing Problems and Obligations," a book which has not only helped a large number of nurses, but has interested lay persons. The offices held were those of president of the Massachusetts State Nurses Association, and those of vice-president, secretary, and president of the National League of Nursing Education.

Miss Parsons' progressive theories, which were set forth upon the written pages and propounded from the public platform, were put into practice in her school. Every graduate of her school has an inexpressible feeling of gratitude to her for the continued upbuilding of the school, which resulted from her vision and foresight.

During these years came war service in France, as chief nurse of Base Hospital 6, from June, 1917 to March, 1919.

On October 1, 1920, Miss Parsons resigned her position at the Massachusetts General Hospital and went immediately to survey the nursing schools in Missouri and Oklahoma, and to aid with nursing legislation in the former state.

In 1922, Miss Parsons returned to Boston and wrote a History of the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses. This school was one of the first three training schools for nurses in America to be founded on the Nightingale plan. Therefore, this history is of more than local interest, for it chronicles the evolution of American training schools.

S. J.

The American Society of Superintendents of
Training Schools for Nurses
and the Nurses Associated Alumnae of the United States
request the honour of your presence
at the Exercises in Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary
of the Founding by Florence Nightingale of the First Training School
for Nurses in London at St. Thomas's Hospital May, 1860
on Wednesday evening, May eighteenth 1910
at eight thirty o'clock
in Carnegie Hall

Addresses will be delivered by
The Honorable Joseph W. Choate The Right Reverend David W. Greer, Bishop of New York
Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn Doctor William M. Polk

An answer is requested to

and others

Miss A. W. Goodrich, Bellevue Training School for Nurses



Miss Parsons

Letter from Mary
Litt: Annual
Annual

Celebration in New York City (1910)
of 50th Anniversary
Founding by F. N. St. T's
S. of N. London (1860)

Annual Convention of
Am. Soc. of Supts of T.S. & Nurses Assoc. Alumnae Assoc.

NOT FOR CIRCULATION

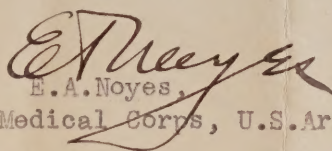
WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
WASHINGTON

slm/emr

Aug. 21, 1919.

This is to certify that Reserve Nurse Sara E. Parsons was assigned to active service in the Army Nurse Corps on June 28, 1917. She reported for duty as temporary chief nurse at Ellis Island, New York. On July 11, 1917, she sailed for Europe, and arrived in France July 28, 1917. She served as chief nurse with Base Hospital #6, A.E.F. She reported at Nurses Demobilization Station, Hotel Albert, New York, on March 2, 1919, and requested relief from active service. On April 29, 1919, she was relieved from active service in the military establishment, and has been paid in full to that date, including the \$60 bonus granted nurses honorably discharged from the service.

By direction of the Surgeon General:


E.A. Noyes,
Major, Medical Corps, U.S. Army.

1870

THE STATE OF NEW YORK
IN SENATE
JANUARY 15, 1870.
REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE LAND OFFICE
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION
PASSED BY THE SENATE
MAY 1, 1869.
ALBANY: PUBLISHED BY THE
UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.
1870.

ALBANY: PUBLISHED BY THE
UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.
1870.

ALBANY: PUBLISHED BY THE
UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.
1870.

NOV 18 1938

TEACHERS COLLEGE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
NEW YORK

NURSING EDUCATION

November 17, 1938

Miss Sally Johnson, Principal
Training School for Nurses
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

My dear Miss Johnson:

I was so glad to hear from you and thank you for the nice remark about the Curriculum Guide which you passed on.

I am sorry that Mr. Hagemeyer did not ^{at first} identify Miss Parsons. We have looked the matter up and she was here for the academic year 1904-05. We consider her one of the outstanding graduates of the Hospital Economics course.

Thank you for the supplementary memorandum in relation to Miss Voigt which has been filed with her other credentials.

We enjoyed Miss Sleeper's visit very much and felt that we got a little more closely in touch with all our friends at the Massachusetts General through her. She gave us a very interesting account of some of the things you are doing and we realize that, as always, you are forging ahead.

I am

Yours very sincerely,

Isabel M. Stewart

Isabel M. Stewart

IMS:EM

TEACHERS COLLEGE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
NEW YORK

October 17, 1930

Miss Emily Johnson, Principal
Training School for Nurses
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

My dear Miss Johnson:

I was so glad to hear from you and thank you for the
nice letter about the Garrison Child with your name on.

I am sorry that Mr. Chapman did not identify Miss
Garrison. He was looking at the picture and was very sure for
himself that it was not the same. He was also sure of the
character of the hospital's reputation.

Thank you for the very interesting information in relation
to Miss Child which has been filed with her other materials.

We enjoyed Miss Garrison's visit very much and felt
that we got a little more closely in touch with all our friends
at the Massachusetts General Hospital. She gave us a very
interesting account of some of the things you are doing and we
wished that we could have been there to see it.

I am

Yours very sincerely,

Isabel M. Stewart
Isabel M. Stewart

133:14

Material garnered from Reading about Miss Parsons.

Note: some of it not used; other bits put in sequence.

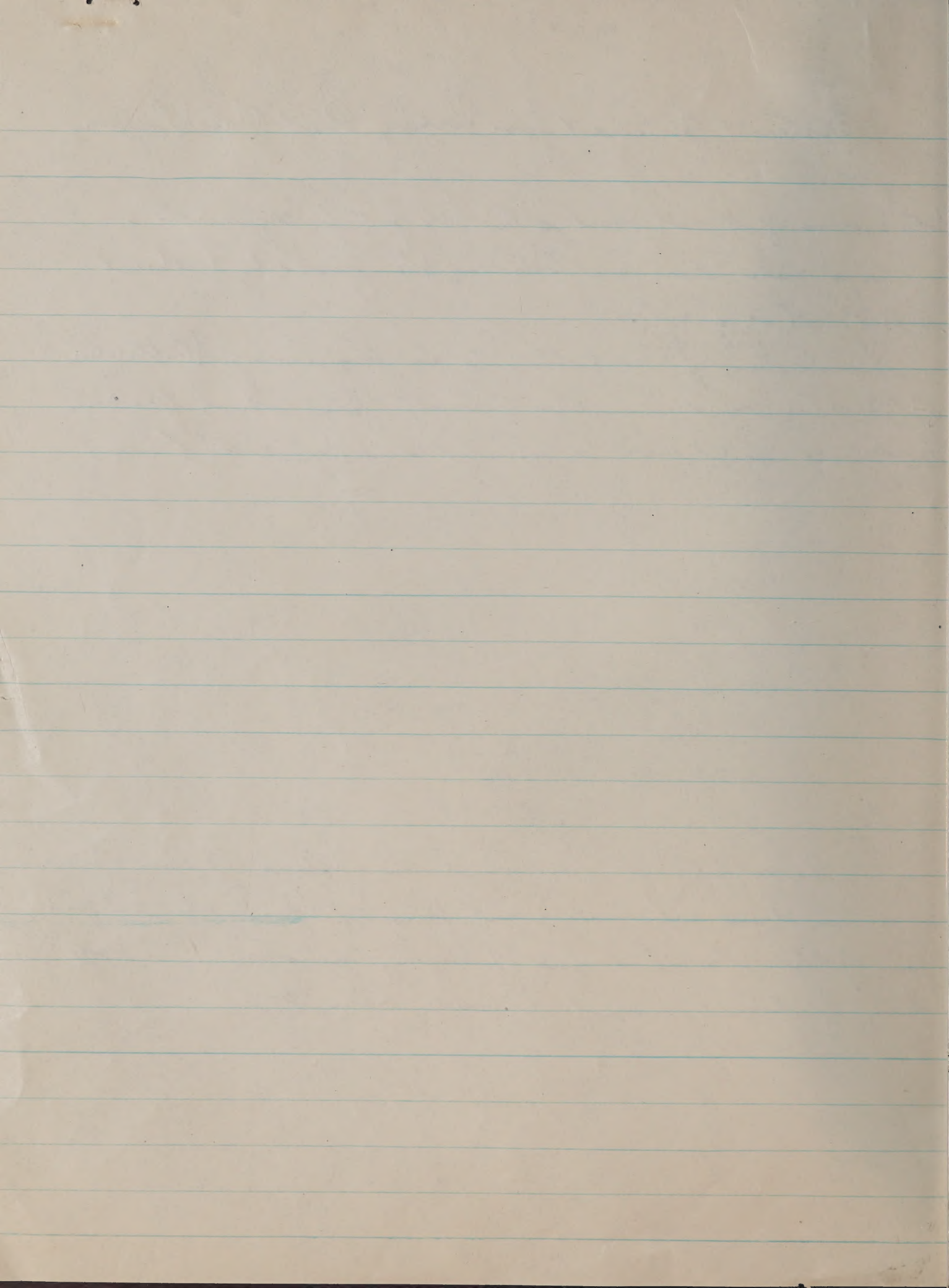
Am sure there are "bits" in the "Equality" volume I did not dig out.

Somewhere I think there is an American Publication of Butler and another of Pratt from which pictures or article could now be extracted and put with this.

g.

Note.

The copper plate from which the picture of Miss Parsons in domestic dress was made, was borrowed from the New York Office of the National League of Women's Education. A "soft" looking photograph cannot be made from it.



Sequence

1864-Apr. 21

Born - Southboro, Mass.

1876 - Went to Oxford to live

1884 (20) entered Boston City Hospital ^{Linda Richards}

The mother had remarried - younger
half sister 4 older was 8.

Mother ill - went home after 3 weeks

1884 - To keep house for step-father and
the two children - Mother died.

1891 - entered M.S.H.

1893 - graduated by M.S.H.

1894 - Head-nurse M.S.H. (B.)

1895 - 1 yr course at The Leam

1896 - Head-nurse "superior" The Leam
Pondus R.S.

1897 - Organized School at Butler Hosp.

1899. Resigned - to Hospital "Boy State"

1900. To Northampton State for effort
to organize school. Not accom-
plished - Only 6 units (abroad)

1901. Supt. Nurses Adams Nervine ^{Jamaica} Plain

1904 - Abroad

1905 - Special Certificate from J.C.

1905-1909. Organized School at Shepherd
and Enck Pratt (Pratt)
Towson - Md.

1909. Administration Course - M.S.H.

1909 - Opened new Griffin Hospital - Derby Conn.

1910 - (Feb) Superintendent of Nurses at
Massachusetts General Hospital.

Oct. 2 - 1894 - Oct. 1 - 1895

Mrs. Belnap - Feb. 20 - Aug. 1 - 1895

Ant. Sup. Aug. 9 - Oct. 1 - 1895

Went Jan. 1 - 1897

Jan. 1 - 1900

about remainder of year.

for 1 yr.

Sept 5

Oct. 1

1896

Articles Written by Miss Parron.

Note: am not quite sure whether numbers refer to League Reports or C. M. J. Vol.

1. Care Method - 11 - 1009
2. Sliding Scale of Fees - 11 - 694
3. Age Limit - 14 - Page 21
4. Effect of Red Cross Standard - 15 - 1008 or 1018
5. Encouraging Signs in Nursing Education - 15 - 274
6. Necessity of Right Budget - 15 - 680
7. Ethics - 16 - 693 16 - 970 -
8. Why Private Duty Nurses Should Organize - 16 - 497
9. The Old Nurse - 16 - 1094
10. Impressions from War Experiences. 19 - 829
11. Rent for Nurses 1920 20 (C. M. J. N. Page 34)

National Officers Held.

Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses - Councillor 1908-9-10
 National League - Elected June 25-1913 at Atlantic City
 Page 95
 League Report 13 / 1st Vice - 1915 - Elected June 25-1915. San. Fran.
 Pres. 1916. May 3-1916 - New Orleans
 1st Vice 1917 May 2-1917 Phil.
 Total Sec. 2 yrs Vice 2 yrs Pres. 1.
 Pres. Miss. Note Founded Central Meeting - 1924
 of Maryland State - when at Shepherd Pratt
 Following resignation from Dr. S. H. In Missouri & Oklahoma: survey of schools
 worked with legislation. Helen Wood at St. Louis at the time.

References to Miss Parron's elections found in League Reports:
 Page 95 - Report 13 Page 206 - Report 15
 " 286 " 14 " 300 " 17

See Report of 1910.

What to do I. right
 after 1917 elections.

Seen many
 1st Vice Pres.
 named fellow
 Pres. but record
 includes
 what to do I. right
 after 1917 elections.

Notes from Dorothy Taylor.

In World War I.

Sailed for Boston - June 29 - 1917

July 11 - 1917 S.S. "Aurania"

Return: Landed Hoboken - Feb. 24 - 1919

At Camp Merritt - N.J. - Apr. 1 - 5

To Camp Devens - April 5

Apr. 9 - 1919 - Demobilized

Central Directory.

Feb. 1924 - "was approached relative to becoming an assistant in the office" The following December she was asked to become Registrar but "requested that she be called 'Acting Registrar for the present'. She serves as 'Registrar' until her resignation September, 1926.

- (11) Gift of 152 microscopes in 1912. (Gift from Mrs. Thayer)
- (12) Additional heat in Thayer - 1919
- (13) In front of Mrs. Parsons' book
 "This Series of Talks is Dedicated
 to the
 Memory of my Mother, who gave me for a motto
 'To Be Not & Seem'"
- (14) As early as 1911 - Talks for students in Colleges. (Gillespie mentions)
- (15) Early efforts to found Central District brought much opposition because
 nurses registered at the Medical Library (Lawson) and was source of
 regular income.
- (16) From graduation address given at St. Luke's Hospital, New Bedford
 in 1912 - (I was there as instructor) "Go to your work full of courage,
 good will, and optimism. If you have not already learned
 this lesson, I wish I might convince you that it pays to have
 faith in people, in truth and in happiness. Look persistently on
 the good and the beautiful in everything. Give people credit for
 good intentions."
- (17) First graduation held in "New Home" was in 1914.
- (18) Red Cross Hospital Aides - Sept. 1916 {Mrs. Bell and Dr. Strong's wife}

Trips Abroad -

1900 Dr. Emma Provers - 8 months.

1903 - - - 1 yr.

1917 - June & Oct 1919 Chief Nurse - Base Hosp 6.

1929 - Red Cruise with two sisters and niece.

1931 - 33 - In France with above - lived there two years.

1937 - In Eng. & Fr. with niece - 6 months.

1939 - Trip: Brazil - Panama Canal - Hawaii - Alaska - Cuba -

I visited them
 in Paris.

Memo.

Miss information that I gathered but did not put in article, but which should be filed.

At present July 17, 1950 I think my most serious omission was inclusion of the publication of her book "Nursing Problems and ¹⁹¹⁴ Obligations" - I had it in near mention of her classes in this subject; planned to replace it, but failed to do so. Miss Parsons fore-word to this book is of interest. The other important omission was no mention of the School taking over the "training of the orderlies." Their classes etc. were under direction of one of the Assistant Superintendents of the Hospital. Responsibility of orderlies - 1915 -

① Discontinued the requirement from all probationers to sign a statement promising to remain 3 yrs. (I signed. S.D.)

(2) Aid those who withdrew & become established in another school. ? 1911 report -

(3) Arranges for extensions of period which McLean ^{graduates} ~~students~~ spend in N.S. & school to obtain diploma from N.S.H. Was formerly 13 months; extended to 18 with skeleton training included. 1912.

(4) Eng & En app - May 1 - 1910

(5) McLean app - 1913

(6) Social Service - 1912

(7) Extends (up) age limit of entrance:

Admits sisters, Mother & daughter (Holmes),

(8) Amy Miller & Johns Hopkins - 1st full time instructor

(9) Period when pupils sent for practice with Dr. Goddard } when having class in "Medicine & Medicine"

(10) Until 1910 only one graduate in Anaph. (In my time)

2nd sent in 1910.

A. J. N.

Sara E. Parsons

Born in Northboro, Massachusetts, April 21, 1864. Moved to Oxford, Massachusetts at age of 12 years, which has since been her home.

Entered the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses September 1, 1891 and was graduated September 1, 1893. Remained for one year as head nurse. (Ward A.)

Entered McLean Hospital Training School for Nurses October 1, 1894 as a postgraduate student but was given a diploma October 1, 1895. Remained there as a supervisor for one year, or until October 1, 1896.

On January 1, 1897 went to the Butler Hospital, Providence, Rhode Island as superintendent of nurses, and there organized a school of nursing.

Resigned the above position to join a group of doctors and nurses who in 1899 during the Spanish War went to Cuba to bring home sick and wounded American soldiers on the Hospital Ship Bay-State.

Then followed a short, unsuccessful attempt to establish a school of nursing in one of the Massachusetts Hospitals for the Insane. After that a year was spent abroad (1900)

After returning from Europe Miss Parsons was for three years, 1901-1904, superintendent of nurses at the Adams Nervine Asylum.

Then another year abroad, 1904, which was followed by a college year in the Department of Hospital Economics, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. Miss Parsons received the special certificate which the College at that time awarded to nurses who completed this course. (1905)

In the following September Miss Parsons was appointed superintendent of nurses at the Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital in Towson, Maryland. Again

she founded a school of nursing in a hospital for the care of nervous and mentally ill patients.

By January 1, 1909 Miss Parsons had been exclusively in the field of mental nursing and wished to familiarize herself again with the field of general nursing. On that date she resigned from her position at the Sheppard and Enoch Pratt and the following May began the four months course in Hospital Administration at the Massachusetts General Hospital. After completing that course she equipped and opened the new Griffin Hospital in Derby, Connecticut.

At the end of the year 1909 Miss Parsons resigned from the position at the Griffin Hospital and early in ¹⁹¹⁰ returned to the Massachusetts General Hospital to become Superintendent of the Training School for Nurses, a position she held until October 1, 1920.

During those years Miss Parsons was on leave to be the Chief Nurse of Base Hospital No. 6, the Base Hospital of the Massachusetts General Hospital which served in France, June ¹⁹¹⁷ - March ¹⁹¹⁹, during World War I. While at the Massachusetts General Hospital she held several offices in various nursing organizations; among them, Secretary, Vice-President, and President of the National League of Nursing Education. Many articles written during those years and published in hospital and nursing magazines expressed thinking which was far in advance of her time. In 1916 her book "Nursing Problems and Obligations" was published.

Following her resignation from the Massachusetts General Hospital Miss Parsons surveyed schools of nursing in Oklahoma and Missouri and later assisted with Federal nursing legislation in Washington. In 1923 she returned to Boston and wrote a "History of the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses" published in that year. From February 1924 to September 1926 she was

assistant and later Registrar of the Central Directory for Nurses of District No. 5 of the Massachusetts State Nurses' Association.

Since Miss Parsons has retired from active nursing she has traveled extensively and lived several years abroad. Since 1937 she has been a resident of the Mount Pleasant Home in Boston.

High Lights

Work with mentally ill = nursing of - school (Founded 2
Supt. in
(2 others

Author

Offices held

World War I

Position at Massachusetts General Hospital

Graduate of McLean.

Died Oct. 25 - 1949 - Funeral Oct. 28 - 1949

President: Maryland State - Trust 2 do with founding of Cent. of
Registry.

Directed for. Created - uniformed Airman Endowment

Shortened hours. Two full time instructors

Modified uniforms. Air warden

Edwards.

Northampton
Adams River

Bueller
Shepherd - Smith Prof

Church

G. J. N.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

CONFERENCE

HELD AT THE

UNIVERSITY OF

CHICAGO, ILL.

IN THE

MONTH OF

SEPTEMBER

1900

AND

1901

BY

THE

AMERICAN

ASSOCIATION

OF

PSYCHOLOGISTS

Parsons, Sara E.

Obituary, A.J.N., December 1949
Pages 818-819.

Sara E. Parsons (Massachusetts General, Boston, 1893), who was superintendent of the school at Massachusetts General from 1910 to 1920, died on October 25 at the Mt. Pleasant Home in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.

Miss Parsons was for one year head nurse at Massachusetts General, then entered the school at McLean, Waverley, Mass., for advanced work in psychiatric nursing. She remained there as supervisor for one year after receiving her diploma, and psychiatric nursing was thereafter a dominant interest.

The following year, 1897, she went to Butler Hospital in Providence, R.I., as superintendent of nurses, and there organized the school of nursing. She resigned this position to join a group of doctors and nurses who, in 1899, went to Cuba to bring back sick and wounded American soldiers on the hospital ship "Bay State".

After an attempt to establish a school of nursing in a state hospital for the mentally ill and a year abroad, she became superintendent of nurses at the Adams Nervine Hospital in Jamaica Plain. She held this position for three years. Then followed another year abroad and a year of study at Teachers College, Columbia.

Her next position was at Sheppard and Enoch Pratt in Towson, Maryland, where she organized the school of nursing. During this period, 1906-1909, she served as president of the Maryland State Nurses Association. In 1909, she returned to Massachusetts General for a course in hospital administration, and the following year,

Parsons, Sara E.

Obituary, A.L.H., December 1933
pages 813-815

Sara E. Parsons (Massachusetts General, Boston, 1893), who was
superintendent of the school at Massachusetts General from 1910 to
1920, died on October 25 at the St. Pleasant Home in Jamaica Plain,
Massachusetts.

Miss Parsons was for one year head nurse at Massachusetts
General, then entered the school at Boston, Harvard, Mass., for
advanced work in psychiatric nursing. She remained there as super-
visor for one year after receiving her diploma, and psychiatric
nursing was thereafter a dominant interest.

The following year, 1897, she went to Butler Hospital in Provi-
dence, R.I., as superintendent of nurses, and there organized the
school of nursing. She resigned this position to join a group of
doctors and nurses who, in 1898, went to Cuba to bring back sick and
wounded American soldiers on the hospital ship "City State".

After an attempt to establish a school of nursing in a state
hospital for the mentally ill and a year abroad, she became superin-
tendent of nurses at the Adams Memorial Hospital in Jamaica Plain.
She held this position for three years. Then followed another year
abroad and a year of study at Teachers College, Columbia.

Her next position was at Sheppard and Knapp Hall in Towson,
Maryland, where she organized the school of nursing. During this
period, 1900-1903, she served as president of the Maryland State
Nurses Association. In 1903, she returned to Massachusetts General
for a course in hospital administration, and the following year,

she equipped, opened, and organized Griffin Hospital in Derby, Conn.

Early in 1910 Miss Parsons returned to Massachusetts General as superintendent of the training school, remaining in that position until 1920. During her administration the school's first full-time instructor in nursing procedures was appointed, the student government association was organized, and the alumnae association created an endowment fund. She also served, during this time, as secretary, vice-president, and president of the National League of Nursing Education and wrote a number of articles for hospital and nursing magazines. In 1916, her book, Nursing Problems and Obligations, was published. From 1917 to 1919 she served overseas, on leave of absence, as chief nurse of Base Hospital No.6.

Following her resignation as superintendent of the school in 1920, Miss Parsons surveyed schools of nursing in Oklahoma and Missouri and later, for a brief period, lobbied for nursing legislation in Washington, D.C. Returning to Boston, she wrote a history of the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses, published in 1922.

she equipped, opened, and organized Griffin Hospital in Derby, Conn.
Early in 1910 Miss Parsons returned to Massachusetts General as
superintendent of the training school, remaining in that position
until 1920. During her administration the school's first full-time
instructor in nursing procedures was appointed, the student government
association was organized, and the alumni association created an
endowment fund. She also served, during this time, as secretary,
vice-president, and president of the National League of Nursing
Education and wrote a number of articles for hospital and nursing
magazines. In 1915, her book, *Nursing Problems and Solutions*, was
published. From 1917 to 1919 she served overseas, on leave of
absence, as chief nurse of Base Hospital No. 6.
Following her resignation as superintendent of the school in
1920, Miss Parsons surveyed schools of nursing in Oklahoma and
Missouri and later, for a brief period, looked for nursing legis-
lation in Washington, D.C. Returning to Boston, she wrote a history
of the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses,
published in 1922.

Hospital News

MISS SARA E. PARSONS

Miss Sara E. Parsons who was Superintendent of Nurses at the Massachusetts General Hospital from 1910-1920 died at the Mt. Pleasant Home, Jamaica Plain, October 25, 1949.

Miss Parsons was graduated from the School in 1893 and was a Head Nurse on Ward A for one year. She then went to the McLean School of Nursing for a year's postgraduate course and remained there for a year as Supervisor. While at McLean she became deeply conscious of the importance of the right kind of nursing for the mentally ill. During the subsequent years she was superintendent of nurses in four mental hospitals. She created schools of nursing in two of them: Butler Hospital, Providence, Rhode Island; Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital, Towson, Maryland. Between these positions Miss Parsons went abroad twice, had a year of study at Teachers College, Columbia University, and during the Spanish War went to Cuba to bring back sick and wounded American soldiers on the Hospital-Ship "Bay State".

It was in 1909 that Miss Parsons first returned to the Massachusetts General Hospital. She came to take the course in Hospital Administration which Dr. Washburn had established. When it was completed in the fall, she went to equip and to open the Griffin Hospital in Derby, Connecticut.

In May of 1910 Miss Parsons was appointed Superintendent of Nurses at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Her administration was far in advance of its time. A few examples of this fact are: shortening of the students' week on duty; provision for social activities; liberalization of school regulations; establishment of student government; enrichment of the curriculum; appointment of two full time instructors to the staff; influencing the Alumnae Association to create an Endowment Fund for the School of Nursing. While at

the School she wrote her book "Nursing Problems and Obligations"

From June 1917 to March 1919, Miss Parsons was on leave to serve as Chief Nurse of Base Hospital 6, stationed in Bordeaux, France. Miss Parsons' personality was one of warmth and cordiality. Already, at home, the students and graduates realized her genuine and productive interest in their welfare and advancement. In Base Hospital 6 the nurses soon developed a deep and lasting affection for her. This affection was nurtured by Miss Parsons' good sportmanship evidenced as she shared the inconveniences and hardships of war service. But above all they loved her for the security of her fair judgment.

After Miss Parsons resigned in 1920 her interests in nursing continued as she worked for nursing legislation, and as she made surveys of schools. The School of Nursing today takes pride in the possession of a history of the School which Miss Parsons published in 1923.

Sara Parsons, Noted Nurse Taken by Death

Special to the Telegram

BOSTON, Wednesday — Miss Sara E. Parsons, retired superintendent of the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses, known for her work in humanizing discipline in nursing schools, died yesterday at the Mount Pleasant Home, Jamaica Plain. She was 85.

A native of Northboro, she was educated in Oxford and graduated from the Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing in 1893.

Leadership Recognized

Her capacity for leadership was recognized immediately after she was appointed head nurse of a ward at Massachusetts General. She left after a year to become in 1896 supervisor of nurses at the McLean Hospital Nurses Training School, following a post graduate course.

In 1899, Miss Parsons resigned to join a group of doctors and nurses going to Cuba to bring home sick and wounded American soldiers of the Spanish War aboard the hospital ship, Bay State.

She enrolled in Massachusetts General hospital's course in hospital administration, and early in 1910 was named superintendent of the Training School for Nurses there, a position she held until 1920.

While in that position, she established student government, to

Turn to PARSONS, Page Eight

DEATHS and

Sara E. Parsons Rites Friday

The funeral of Miss Sara E. Parsons, 85, retired superintendent of the Massachusetts General Hospital training school for nurses, will be held at 1:30 P. M. Friday at the Mt. Pleasant Home, 301 South Huntington avenue, Jamaica Plain. She died there yesterday.

Born in Northboro, she was educated at Oxford, Mass., and graduated from the Massachusetts General Hospital school of nursing in 1893.

In 1910 she was named superintendent of the training school for nurses there, a position she held 10 years. She established an endowment fund that today amounts to \$115,000.

In 1926 she retired from the nursing profession, after serving two years as assistant and later registrar of the Central Directory for Nurses of the Massachusetts State Nurses' Association.

She was a former secretary, vice-president and president of the National League of Nursing Education.

She leaves a niece, Mrs. Clarence Daigneau of Oxford.

Oct-26 49
BOSTON DAILY GLOBE—WED

Deaths and

Sara E. Parsons Headed Nursing School Here, Long Active in Field

Sara E. Parsons, 85, superintendent of the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses from 1910 to 1920, died yesterday at the Mount Pleasant Home, Jamaica Plain.

Miss Parsons was a native of Northboro. She began her long career in nursing at Massachusetts General in 1891.

She subsequently served as superintendent of the nursing schools at McLean Hospital, Waverley, and the Butler Hospital, Providence. At the latter hospital she organized a school of nursing.

In 1899 she joined a group of doctors and nurses who went to Cuba to bring home sick and wounded American soldiers. During World War I, she served as chief nurse of Base Hospital No. 6 of the Massachusetts General Hospital in France.

In 1906 she was appointed superintendent of nurses at the Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital, Towson, Md., where she founded a school of nursing for the care of nervous and mentally ill.

After completing a course in hospital administration at Massachusetts General in 1909 she equipped and opened the Griffin Hospital in Derby, Conn. She returned to Massachusetts General in 1910 to become superintendent of the nurses training school.

She was a former secretary, vice-president and president of the National League of Nursing Education and the author of "Nursing Problems and Obligations" and "History of the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses."

From 1924 to 1926 she was assistant and later registrar of the Central Directory for Nurses of District 5 of the Massachusetts State Nurses' Association.

Following her retirement she traveled extensively and lived abroad for several years. She had been a resident of the Mount Pleasant Home since 1937.

She is survived by a niece, Mrs. Clarence Daigneau of Oxford.

Services will be held at the Mount Pleasant Home Friday at 1:30 p. m. Burial will be in Oxford.

Sutton Grange, ...
77th annual session of the State Grange in Springfield.

Mrs. L. F. Sampson, who has been a patient at Fairlawn Hospital, Worcester, for a few weeks is expected to return home today.

The West Sutton Baptist Church announces that Mrs. John Dudley of Wilkinsonville, will be the guest artist at its monthly sacred concert which is scheduled for next Sunday evening.

Saturday afternoon at 1 there will be a public auction at West Sutton, with Frank Rawson of Oxford as the auctioneer. The proceeds will go toward drilling an artesian well for the church.

ADVERTISEMENT

Contact Lens Users

After lenses are removed and if your eyes and lids feel tired, sore, inflamed, burning and smarting — enjoy the soothing comfort of pleasant Lavoptik. Quickly helps relieve irritation. Your eyes feel refreshed and clean. Lavoptik has been used for more than 30 years. Must delight or money back. Get Lavoptik today. (Eye-cup included.) Available at all druggists.

ELMAN
INC.

Madison Sts.

— 12 Lincoln Sq.

WEEK of
SALE Now in Progress
OF FOODS FOR WINTER
NOW AND SAVE!

for Wednesday

Order Now for Your Halloween Party, doz. **17¢**

ork Chops

mediate between America and Russia."

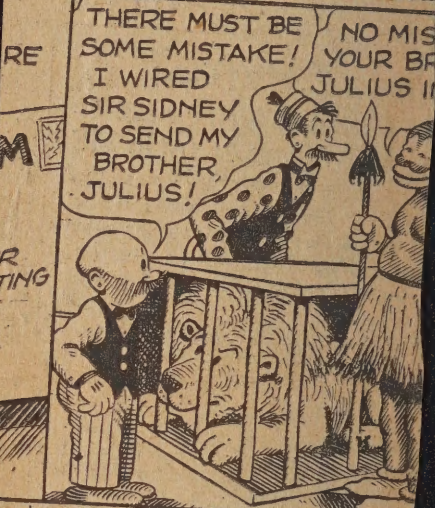
ALWAYS A WISE BUY
St. Joseph ASPIRIN
WORLD'S LARGEST SELLER AT 10¢

NAND'S
VERSARY

LEARANCE
Traditional
FURNITURE

E—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

—Maybe Sir Sid Should Ha



Herald
Oct. 26 - 49

SARA E. PARSONS DIES AT AGE OF 85



MISS SARA E. PARSONS

Nurse veteran of two wars who died in Jamaica Plain yesterday.

Miss Sara E. Parsons, 85, of Oxford and Jamaica Plain, for many years superintendent of the school of nursing at the Massachusetts General Hospital, died at the Mt. Pleasant Home in Jamaica Plain yesterday.

A graduate of the Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing in 1893, she was nationally known for her work with the mentally ill. During the Spanish American war, she was one of a group of doctors and nurses who went to Cuba to bring home sick and wounded American soldiers on the hospital ship Bay-State.

Funeral services will be held at the Mt. Pleasant Home Friday at 1:30 p. m.



EXPERT
WORK
SINCE
1920

PenCraft

3RD
FLOOR

5 BROMFIELD ST.

AUTHORIZED SERVICE STATION FOR
PARKER AND OTHER MAKES — SEE
PARKER'S AERO-METRIC "51" TODAY!

Post

Oct. 26 - 49



MISS SARA PARSONS

Sara Parsons Is Dead at 85

*Ex-Head of M.G.H.
School for Nurses*

Miss Sara E. Parsons, retired superintendent of the Massachusetts General Hospital training school for nurses, died yesterday at the Mt. Pleasant Home, 301 South Huntington avenue, Jamaica Plain. She was 85.

A native of Northboro, she was educated in Oxford, Mass., and was graduated from the Massachusetts General Hospital school of nursing in 1893.

Her capacity for leadership was recognized immediately when she was appointed head nurse of a ward at Massachusetts General. She left there after one year to become supervisor of nurses at the McLean Hospital nurse's training school, following a post-graduate course there.

WENT TO CUBA

In 1899, Miss Parsons resigned to join a group of doctors and nurses going to Cuba to bring home sick and wounded American soldiers of the Spanish War aboard the hospital ship, "Bay State."

Miss Parsons continued her education at Columbia University and then was appointed superintendent of nurses at the Sheppard and Enoch Pratt hospital in Townson, Md., where she again founded a school of nursing for the care of the nervous and mentally ill.

Wishing to renew her knowledge of medical nursing, she resigned again and enrolled at the Massachusetts General hospital for a course in hospital administration, and early in 1910 was named superintendent of the training school for nurses there, a position she held until 1920.

While in that position, she established student government, to check the arbitrary, harsh discipline of nursing schools. She also caused the construction of the Wolcott House in 1913, at that time a modern, congenial home for nurse trainees.

She established an endowment fund with the first \$200 contribution, a fund that today amounts to \$115,000.

During her years at the Massachusetts General, Miss Parsons was given leave to become chief nurse of Base Hospital 6, the unit from the hospital which served in France during World War I.

She also was former secretary, vice president and president of the National League of Nursing Education.

She served two years from 1924 as assistant and later as registrar of the Central Directory for Nurses of the Massachusetts State Nurses' Association, and then retired completely from nursing.

She leaves only a niece, Mrs. Clarence Daigneau of Oxford.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 1:30 P. M. at the Mt. Pleasant Home, Jamaica Plain.

'Torch' Slayer

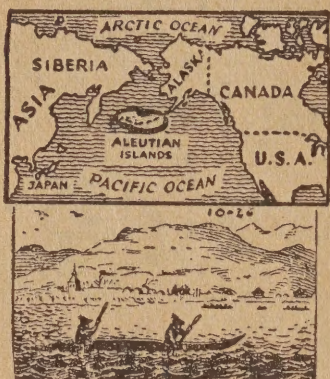
GOOD SPORT CORNER

Aleutian Islands Extend 800 Miles

If we study a map of Alaska, we see a jut of land which comes from the western part. It swings to the south and west for a distance of 410 miles, and is known as the Alaska Peninsula.

Spreading westward from the end of that jut of land are the Aleutian islands. They form a chain, somewhat curved, and stretch out nearly 800 miles to the west.

There are about 150 Aleutian islands. Together they have an area of more than 6,300 square miles.



Below: Aleuts in boat as shown in picture made in 1822.

Almost all of the Aleutian islands belong to the United States, and were "thrown in" when the United States bought Alaska from Russia. A few islands of the chain, near the coast of Asia, still belong to Russia.

The islands at one time formed part of a mountain chain which joined the Alaska mainland. Sinking of the land lowered the mountains, until only the upper parts were left above water.

Yet they are not composed entirely of low-lying land. Several of them have peaks which are more than a mile above the level of the ocean.

Volcanoes played a part in building those peaks. Some of them are cones which were formed when the volcanoes were active. To this day there are hot springs on several islands.

People of the islands are known as Aleuts. The name is pronounced like "alley-oot." The first part is spoken like our common word "alley," and the last syllable rhymes with "toot."

The Aleuts are classed as Eskimos, but a great deal of Russian blood flows in their veins. When the Russians owned all the islands, marriages took place between white settlers and native Eskimos.

A century ago there were more than 2400 persons on the islands. Smallpox and other diseases have cut down the number, and today it is only about 1000.

The climate of the Aleutian islands is a bit on the chilly side. Through the year, the average temperature is about 38 degrees above zero.

Yet grass, bushes and stunted trees grow on a number of the islands. There is a growing season of four months, and in that season many plants break forth with bright flowers.

For TRAVEL section of your scrapbook.)

UNCLE RAY.

Tomorrow: More About the Aleuts.

To join the 1950 Uncle Ray Scrapbook Club and obtain a Membership Certificate plus a leaflet telling how to make a Corner Scrapbook of your own, and a printed design to paste on the cover of your scrapbook, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Uncle Ray in care of this newspaper.

Gas Explosion Fires Cottage,

Strike

CLEVELAND, Oct. 25 (AP)—The CIO's left and right wing factions met together today on at least one issue: They pledged full support to Philip Murray's 25-day-old steel strike.

The 51-member executive board, meeting to prepare for next week's free-swinging showdown between the leftist and anticommunist leaders in convention, adopted a unanimous resolution on the strike.

It pledged "full moral, organizational and financial support in this strike which the steel industry, on orders from Wall Street, has forced upon the steelworkers and the American people."

Walter Reuther, red-headed leader of the United Auto Workers and sometimes regarded as a possible successor to Murray, introduced the resolution at a three-hour session of the executive board.

To back up his resolution, Reuther's own U.A.W. executive board voted to a man to contribute \$100,000 to the steelworkers' strike fund as a starter.

Reuther was chosen chairman of the powerful resolutions committee for the convention, starting next Monday. That means he and big Joe Curran, head of the National Maritime Union and secretary of the committee, will have a lot to say about what happens to the pro-communist forces in the CIO.

Reuther and Curran have been successful in battling communist sympathizers in the ranks of their important auto and sailors' unions.

NO BERETS

British army officers in the future must not wear berets except when in training.

**WHEN SLEEP WON'T
COME AND YOU
FEEL GLUM
Try This Delicious
Chewing-Gum Laxative**

When you roll and toss all night—feel headachy and just awful because you need laxative—do this...

Chew FEEN-A-MINT—delicious chewing-gum laxative. The action of FEEN-A-MINT's special medicine "detours" the stomach. That is, it doesn't act while in the stomach, but only when farther along in the lower digestive tract...where you want it to act. You feel fine again quickly!

And scientists say chewing makes FEEN-A-MINT's fine medicine more effective—"readies" it so it flows gently into the system. Get FEEN-A-MINT at any drug counter—25¢, 50¢ or only... 10¢

FEEN-A-MINT
FAMOUS CHEWING-GUM LAXATIVE

Chief Nurse of Base Six at Bordeaux



Miss Sara Elizabeth Parsons

MISS PARSONS was chief nurse of Base Hospital 6 at Bordeaux during the World War and this portrait of her by Carl J. Nordell has been presented to the Nurses' Home of the Massachusetts General Hospital by the nurses who served under her during the war.

She was born in Northboro, Mass., and

is a graduate of the Massachusetts General Hospital and McLean Hospitals. From 1910 to 1920 she was superintendent of nurses at the Massachusetts General. She has been prominent in nurses' organizations and is the author of several works on nursing. Her home is at 1213 Beacon street, Brookline.

11/1/1905

1.

11/1/1905

11/1/1905

11/1/1905

MISS PARSONS

2 Occasion

(not known)

(Sally Johnson)

obviously

writing & speaking

Introduction

1. Should tell audience enough about the person speaking to give an appreciation of the contribution which that person has made to work and to society.
2. Should not detract from the content of the speaker's speech - or subtract from the time allotted to the speaker.

Miss Parsons

many of our older

The graduates know a great deal about her work but there is ~~much of it about which they know nothing~~ - a great deal which they do not know. The students have heard of her in barely more than three situations:

1. In response to the question of the boyfriend who attends the dance, "Whose portrait is that?"
2. My reference to Miss Parsons as my predecessor.
3. My reference to her as Chief Nurse of Base Hospital 6.

Therefore will name the highlights of her rich and busy life.

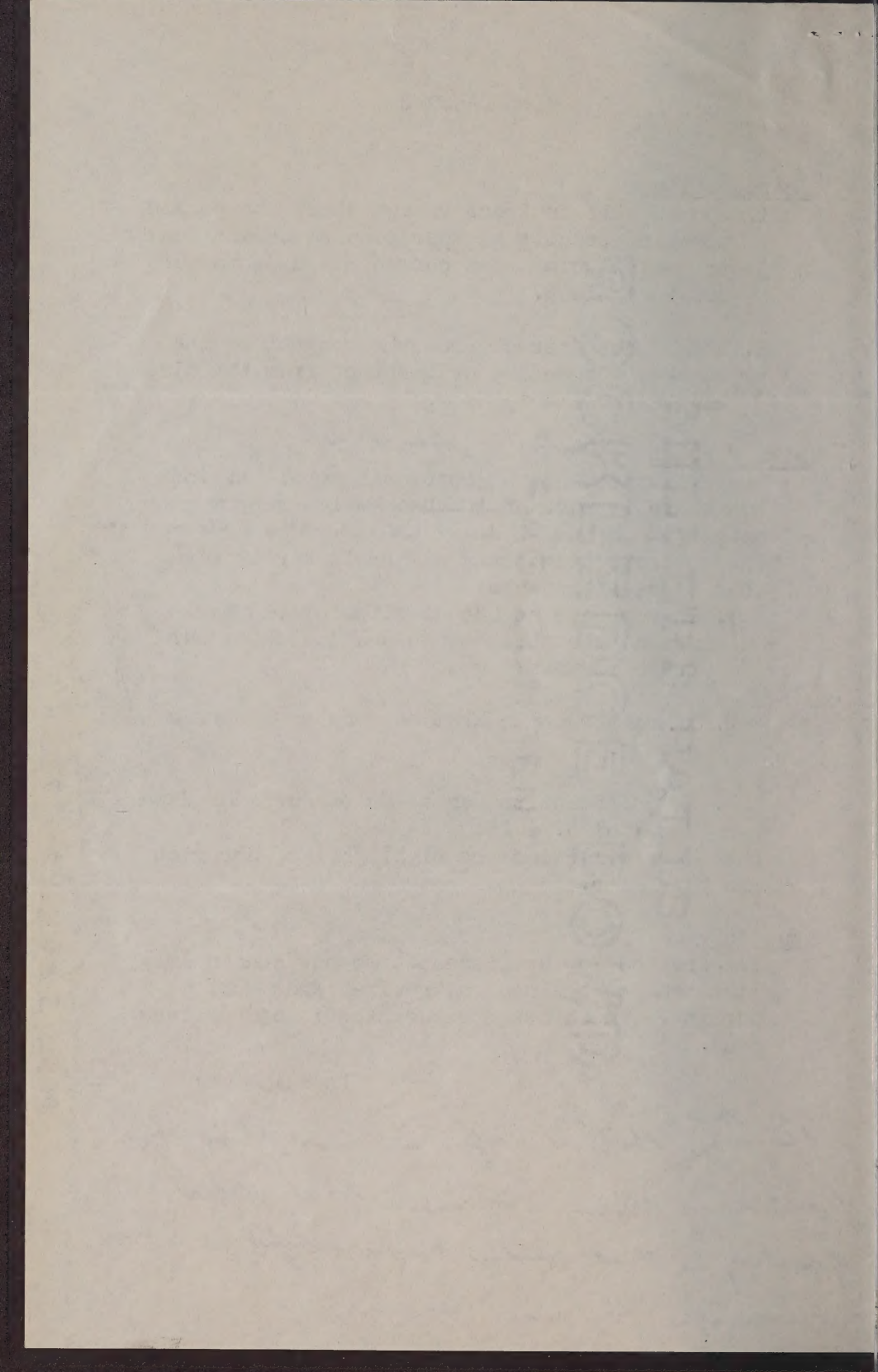
Subject

Preparation for Retirement. It has been nearly eighteen years since she retired from active nursing. Therefore she has experienced retirement.

(see inside)

She said that her life has been that of a rolling stone - from that aspect appalling - and really disgraceful - and no example for our seniors.

That
I am
Miss Parsons - Miss Parsons - Miss Parsons -
from B-N.Y.



Was graduated from M. G. H. in 1893
" " McLean in 1895.

Organized: - *created*

Two schools in mental hospitals.

Was Superintendent of Nurses in two other mental hospitals.

A short period in private duty.

One year at Teachers College (all available).

Four months' course in Hospital Administration here at M.G.H. (Where I first saw her.)

Furnished and opened a hospital in Connecticut

Superintendent of Nurses at the M.G.H. ten years.

(To name and interpret the contributions made here would absorb an entire evening.)

President of the National League of Nursing Education.

After resignation from here wrote history of our Training School for Nurses.

Registrar of Central Directory for three years.

Had six trips abroad ~~within~~ ^{the past} a year. ~~been~~ on a trip to Alaska and Hawaii in lieu of a trip around the world which was cancelled because of the war situation. For many reasons desires peace, but one reason is that when peace comes, she may be able to take that trip around the world.

These few words should ~~tell~~ ^{imply} you something of the kind of person Miss Parsons is.

*She is one of our pioneers of nursing
- is - - - leaders in nursing
- - - - - prides of nursing.*

*But over and above all else she is a woman
of sterling qualities - outstanding - and of many, very in every way - ^{interesting} ^{personality} who has - and who ^{has}
always will - live life to the full. Therefore
she always has had and always will have ^{to} happy life.*

Received from W. L. H. in 1907
Amount \$100.00

Received from W. L. H. in 1907

Two schools in several hospitals.
The Department of Nurses in New York State
Hospital.

A nurse station in private duty.

One year as Teacher College (all available).

One year as Teacher in Hospital and in various

positions in various hospitals.

One year as Teacher in Hospital and in various

positions in various hospitals.

(It is noted that the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital.

After resignation from the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital, the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

Hospital is now in the Department of Nurses in New York State

by S. Johnson

SARAH E. PARSONS

Sarah E. Parsons - Born in Northboro, Massachusetts, 1864. Education - Private schools and public schools. Began her training in the Boston City Hospital when Linda Richards was superintendent of nurses; remained three months; left because of illness of her mother who died when Miss Parsons was twenty. (Evidently they did not require young women to be twenty-three when they started training). Made to feel like a criminal because she went home to care for her mother; thinks that there was a fine group of nurses at the Boston City. Remained at home to keep house for a stepfather. There were two half-sisters, age four and eight. She lived on an isolated farm for three years (about the most unattractive place I ever saw). This was in the town of Oxford, Massachusetts. There were no trolleys; drove to town with a horse and buggy with soapstones for warmth, but would go where there was social intercourse; got home in the middle of the night, unharnessed her horse and settled him for the night. Had chilblains to such an extent that she was miserable, at times wore overshoes because she could not get her shoes on. In the midst of all this she studied botany and took lessons in elocution (this is typical). A ministers daughter boarded with her at one time. This woman was companionable and helped the loneliness. They read together, studied a World Globe, and Miss Parsons studied pieces for elocution practice while she ironed. She made butter, tried to milk but failed -- in general helped to run the farm. She did church work and taught a Sunday School class; struggled to produce a worthwhile entertainment with such material as she had in this class. Miss Parsons once told me of the homeliest kind of a yellow-brown dress that her mother made for her and which she had to wear to school. She knew that the children at school would make fun of her so she decided to get ahead of them. When she landed on the school stoop she was already and greeted these children with the remark - pinching the sleeve of the dress - "Have some snuff?" Because of a meddling woman who was sort of setting these growing girls against Miss Parsons, and because the interest of the stepfather was becoming somewhat personal, she decided to return to training and came to the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1891. She was humble and frightened. Her co-workers say that she was an excellent student nurse and an excellent head nurse. Our older physicians remember her with much pleasure.

1. Head nurse on one of our largest and busiest wards. I do not know just how long. (A)
2. To the McLean Hospital for Mental Diseases where she remained one year and received McLean's diploma.
3. Supervisor at the McLean Hospital for one year.
4. To the Butler Hospital in Providence where she created a school of nursing. She was there two years; left for a personal reason.
5. To the Spanish-American War, working on the ship Bay State to bring men home from Porto Rico and Cuba.
6. Three private cases.
7. ^{Attempted to} Organized ^{Not accomplished} training school at the Northampton State Hospital for Insane; says this experience has always been a nightmare. Left because she could not get the kind of a school that she desired.
8. Went abroad with Dr. Emma Mooers; away eight months.
9. Superintendent of Nurses at the Adams Nervine Hospital, Jamaica Plain, for three years. Began to realize that she needed additional preparation.

Faint, illegible text spanning the upper half of the page, possibly representing a letter or document header.

THE UNIVERSITY OF
BOND

Faint, illegible text spanning the lower half of the page, continuing the document's content.

10. Went abroad again for one year with Dr. Mooers. Did considerable studying.
11. In 1904 she went to Teachers College for one year. There was only a one year course at that time. There were eight in the class. Miss Parsons always speaks of that experience with enthusiasm, and has always been grateful to Miss Nutting for the contact which Miss Nutting made for her and for Miss Nutting's personal interest and encouragement. This year gave Miss Parsons a new lease of life.
12. The next position was at the Shepherd-Pratt Hospital, Maryland, where she organized the school. While there she was President of the Maryland State Nurses' Association. Miss Nutting started her writing. She arranged for some of the nurses to go to the New York Post-Graduate Hospital for two years training in general nursing.
13. Came to the Massachusetts General Hospital for the course in administration; was here six months. This was in 1909. During training Miss Parsons had had no experience in obstetrics, operating room, or pediatrics. This was where I first met Miss Parsons. I was in my second year of training and was in the operating room. I admired this woman who had come back to supplement her preparation. Two or three people were rather snippy toward her and I was ashamed of these women who treated Miss Parsons this way. I recognized her fine personal qualities and her ability, and I made up my mind that I would do everything in my power to help her. I demonstrated the setting up of a table. She said: "May I do it myself the next time?" and I stood by. Little did I realize how that "bread cast upon the waters" would return. I have always said that that bit of teaching of Miss Parsons started me on my professional career. This was typical of Miss Parsons. She saw the best in everybody and stimulated everybody to live up to her best.
14. Opened, equipped, and organized the Griffin Hospital, Derby. She remained there one year. *2. 1/2 years*
15. Came to the Massachusetts General Hospital in May 1910 to be superintendent of nurses. She was told that her appointment here had been delayed because people had the impression that she stayed only a short time in any place. Perhaps she deserved that reputation, but look at the foundation of experience which she had laid. During the years here Miss Parsons was the Secretary and then President of the National League of Nursing Education. She was President of the State Nurses' Association, and was President of the Central Directory for Nurses when it was organized. She wrote her little textbook "Problems and Obligations" and was Overseas from January 1917 to February 1919 as Chief Nurse of Base Hospital No. 6. There is another story by itself. I suppose no chief nurse was more respected or loved. She shared all the hardships, new when to be firm and when to be lenient. After her return to the school she had a brief leave of absence for visiting other schools. For many reasons she did not have her former enthusiasm for training school administration. Certain things about the war and its relation to nurses troubled her. The Board of Trustees here at the hospital had put in a business manager who took away much of Dr. Washburn's authority, this she could never accept. *Pres-2 Brant*

She felt that the Trustees were not sympathetic with some of her plans for a school endowment. A life long friend had died while she was away. Upon her return she found that a half sister, a semi-invalid, had embraced Christian Science and as Miss Parsons had been interested for sometime her interest grew. She resigned from her position here and left the hospital October 1, 1920. For one year she made surveys of nursing schools in Arkansas. For a month she was a lobbyist in Washington for the Jones-Ricker Bill. The Fall of 1922 she returned to the hospital and wrote the history of the training school and helped us to get ready for our fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the school. This ended her career as a nurse. Miss Parsons gradually embraced Christian Science, has been an active member of the church, taught a Sunday School Class and has done some work as a practitioner. This has been hard to understand, but Miss Parsons is always sincere and on one occasion she said the following: "When I was a younger woman religion played a very active part in my life, then during those strenuous years as a nurse my work was my religion and my god, now that religion is again playing a large part in my life, and perhaps it is my retribution that it should take a form with which my dearest friends have no sympathy. My greatest cross is that people like Dr. Washburn, Miss Hall and yourself do not feel quite right about it -- but that is my cross to bear."

As I have learned to know Miss Parsons better, and as I have tried to administer the job which she administered so ably for a decade, my admiration for her grew. While I cannot understand this new interest of hers I accept it and neither my affection nor my admiration have lessened. I could list a long story of her accomplishments while she was here at the school, but I will send those on a supplemental sheet.

(See supplemental sheets for accomplishments at the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses, and for personal qualities).

Contributions of Miss Parsons. 1918-1920

as Dept. of Nurses

*(Nursing duties and
School of Nursing)*

1. Discontinue counting and sorting laundry.
2. Discontinue writing name of patient on cloth with ink and sewing on each article of clothing.
3. Sunday afternoon trips -- first month of training.
4. Welcome parties for Probationers.
5. Discontinue- allowance, furnishing uniforms, text-books, loans, funds, tuition of \$50.
6. Hospital gives pin.
7. Matrons in home -- afternoon tea served.
8. "Quarterly Record" established.
9. A. M. lunch of crackers and milk furnished in Dining room.
10. Propaganda for three reunions.
11. Student Government.
12. Creating of Diet Laboratory.
13. Use of Hospital laboratories for teaching.
14. Creating of Preliminary Course here rather than at Simmons.
15. Affiliation with Eye and Ear Infirmary.
16. Affiliation with McLean Hospital.
17. Reducing of Boston Lying-In Course to 4 months from 6 months.
18. Changing Post-Graduate course of McLean pupils from 13 to 18 months course to include Obstetrics and children, operating room, obstetrics.
19. Establishing custom of senior's giving gift to home.
20. Glee Club for graduation.
21. Five-Year course -- Simmons.
22. White bands on caps for seniors.
23. Maid in Diet Kitchen.
24. Creating infirmary.
25. Book of rules.
26. Precedent Book.
27. Interest in graduates.
28. Endowment Fund - first \$200 given by Miss Parsons. Vice-president and Secretary, U. L. N. E. President Massachusetts State Legislative

Committee, wrote "Nursing Problems and Obligations!"

29. Many addresses.

30. New Home Built.



With love for
Mother's Father
Sara E. Dever

190
D/10/73

5603

← 2½ →

Red Cross Army uniform



Cordially yours,
Sara E. Parsons

Notman Studios
BOSTON
& CAMBRIDGE.

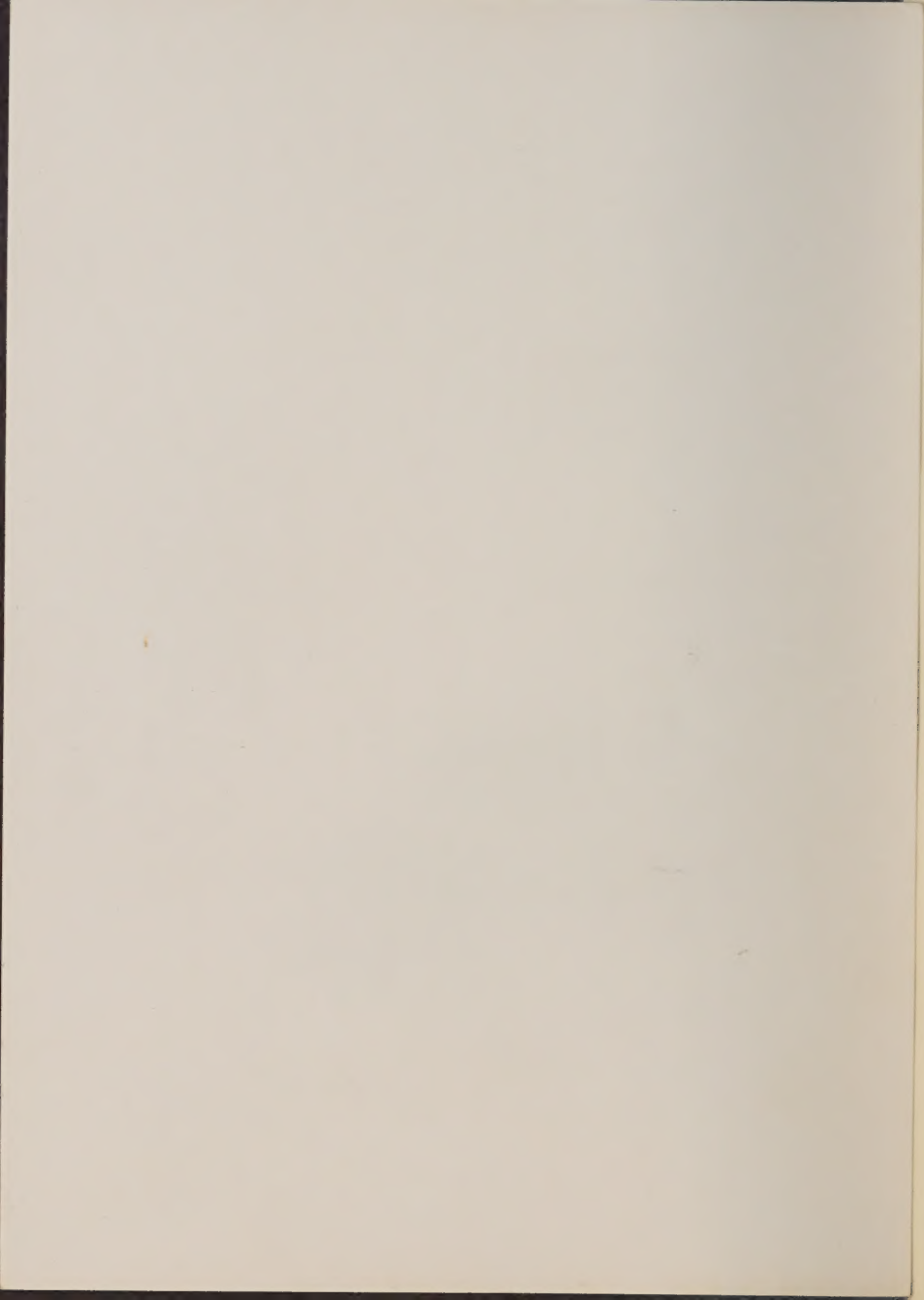
Xmas
1914

Sara E. Parsons - Christmas 1914
1-90: 210-73

Sara E. Parsons



SARA E. PARSONS



1-90: 1810-17 Superintendent of Nurses

1 School of Nursing

